

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the due consideration given the application.

Upon entry of this amendment, Claims 1, 3-6 and 10-20 are pending in the application. Claims 2 and 7-9 are canceled by this amendment. Claim 1 has been amended to generally incorporate the subject matter of claim 2.

No new matter is believed to be added to the application by this amendment.

Entry of this amendment under 37 CFR §1.116 is respectfully requested as canceling claims and placing the application in condition for allowance. Alternately, entry is requested as canceling claims places the application in better form for appeal.

Objection to Disclosure

The Objection to the disclosure was withdrawn in the Advisory Action mailed April 21, 2008.

Rejection Under 35 USC §112, First Paragraph

Claims 1, 12 and 13 have been rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The compliance with the written description requirement was fully set forth in the amendment filed April 14, 2008. For brevity, this discussion is not repeated here.

Upon entry of the instant amendment, claim 2 is incorporated into claim 1, thus fully clarifying the metes and bounds of the rare earth metal proportions b and the relationship z.

Regarding the magnitude of a in the formula $Pb_{1-a}RE_bZr_xTi_yTR_zO_3$, one of ordinary skill would recognize that the proportion of a must be greater than 0. Otherwise, the ceramic composition would not be a piezoceramic material.

As a result, the claims are in full compliance with the written description requirement.

This rejection is believed to be overcome, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 USC §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-20 have been rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

This rejection was fully traversed in the amendment filed April 14, 2008. For brevity, the grounds of this traversal are not repeated here.

By this amendment, claims 7-9 are canceled to thus render the rejection of these claims moot.

Also, this amendment further defines b and z in claim 1 so as to render the meaning of these terms more clear and definite. The claims are thus clear, definite and have full antecedent basis.

This rejection is believed to be overcome, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Every issue set forth in the Official Action mailed February 12, 2008 and the Advisory Action mailed April 21, 2008 has been fully addressed.

The objections and rejections are thus believed to have been overcome, obviated or rendered moot, and that no issues remain. The Examiner is accordingly respectfully requested to place the application in condition for allowance and to issue a Notice of Allowability.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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